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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/775,759	02/09/2004	M'hamed Anis Khemakhem	2316.1825US01	8710

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EXAMINER

HYEON, HAE M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 06/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/775,759

Applicant(s)

KHEMAKHEM, M'HAMED ANIS

Examiner

Hae M. Hyeon

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-12 and 17-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-16, 20 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 February 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/15/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of the invention group III in the reply filed on April 11, 2005 is acknowledged.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: **the outer sleeve 48** recited on page 7, line 12. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - Page 7, line 6 recites, "Gripping surface 58," but page 8, line 18 recites, "finger grooves 58." If these two elements are the same element, the terminology for the same element should be consistent through out the present specification in order to remove confusion.

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- On page 8, line 14 and page 9, line 22; "cable end 62" should be -- cable end 60 --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: The examiner suggests the applicant to insert -- first -- in front of "circumferential mating lip" recited in claim 1, line 11 because line 16 recites, "a second circumferential lip."

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The last paragraph of claim 13 recites that the first endcap includes a second circumferential lip adapted to mate with and form a junction with a second protective boot. The examiner's understanding of the present invention is that the second circumferential lip of the first endcap mates with a circumferential lip of the second protective boot. In addition, lines 11-12 recite that the **lips** of the first end of the first endcap and the first boot mate. Therefore, it is

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unclear whether the second boot includes a circumferential lip to mate with the second circumferential lip of the second end of the first endcap.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

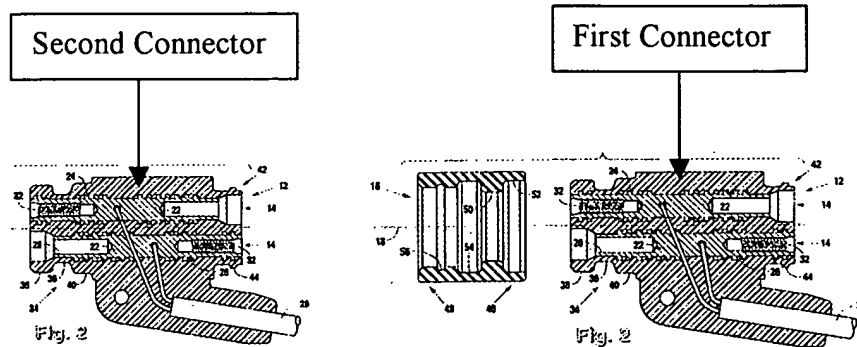
(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 13-16, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood (US 5,605,468) in view of Fussell (US 5,199,893) and Sopotnick et al (US 6,065,981).

Wood discloses a cable connector assembly 10 comprising a first connector 22 with a mating end 34, a first protective boot 12 with a circumferential mating lip 38 at a connector opening, and a first endcap 16 including a circumferential mating lip 54. The connector 22 is disposed interior space of the first boot 12. The endcap 16 has a first end 46 positioned about the mating end 34 of the first connector 22. The lips 38 and 54 of the first end 46 of the first end cap and the first boot 12 are mated to form a junction adjacent the mating end of the first connector (see Fig. 1). The first endcap 16 also includes a second end 48 fitted to a second cable connector, which includes a mating end 42 adapted to physically and electrically mated with the mating end 34 of the first connector 22. The second connector includes a second circumferential lip 44 adapted to mate with and form a junction with a second protective boot positioned about the second connector. Although Wood calls the second lip 44 as O-ring, Wood stated that the

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second lip 44 formed integrally on the peripheral outer surface. Therefore, lip 44 is a ring shaped lip.



Although Wood does not disclose a first cable connector having a cable extending away from the connector opposite the mating end, Fussell discloses the same type of cable connector assembly 30 having a mating end and a cable 34 extending away from the connector opposite the mating end. However, Wood does not disclose the first endcap having a tether with an opening sized to fit about the first protective boot.

Sopotnick discloses a connector having an endcap 4 attached to the connector by a tether 8 and a ring 10. Sopotnick teaches that the tether maintains the endcap 4 in proximity of the connector.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the connector assembly taught by Wood such that it would have an endcap with a tether to maintain the endcap in proximity of the connector.

Regarding the second endcap recited in claims 15 and 16, it only deals with a duplication of part. It has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8. Instead of using one endcap, two endcaps with the same structure are used.

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Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US Patent No. 5,769,662 by Stabile et al., US Patent No. 6,511,339 B1 by Huang and US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0207601 A1 by Adachi.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hae M. Hyeon whose telephone number is 571-272-2093. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. (8:30-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tulsidas C. Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hae M Hyeon
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839

hnh

hnh

Hae Moon Hyeon